

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Application No.: 10/631,810

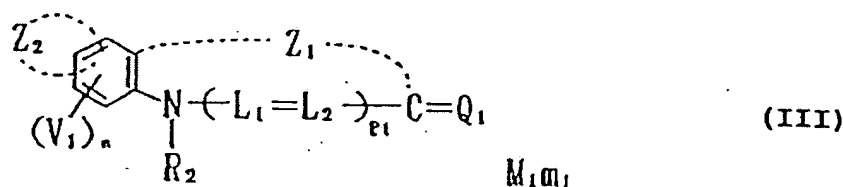
Atty Docket No.: Q76527

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (currently amended): A compound represented by formula (III):



wherein Z_1 represents an atomic group necessary to form thiazole; Z_2 represents an atomic group selected from the group consisting of a furan ring, and a thiophene ring which has a condensed ring to form a tetracyclic ring system, ~~a pyrrole ring, a pyrazole ring, an isoxazole ring, an isothiazole ring and an imidazole ring~~; R_2 represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; L_1 and L_2 each represents a methine group; p_1 represents 0; V_1 represents a substituent; Q_1 represents a methine group or a polymethine group necessary to form a methine dye; M_1 represents an electric charge balancing counter ion; and m_1 represents a number of from 0 to 10 necessary to neutralize the electric charge of the molecule; and n represents 0, 1 or 2, and when n represents 2, a plurality of V_1 may be the same or different.

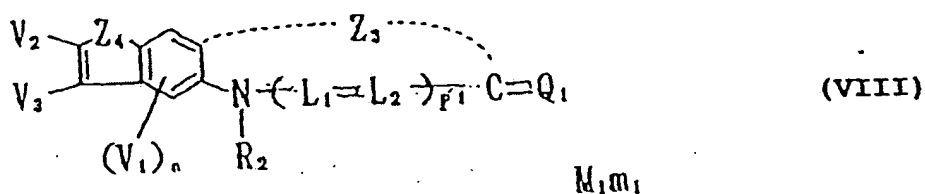
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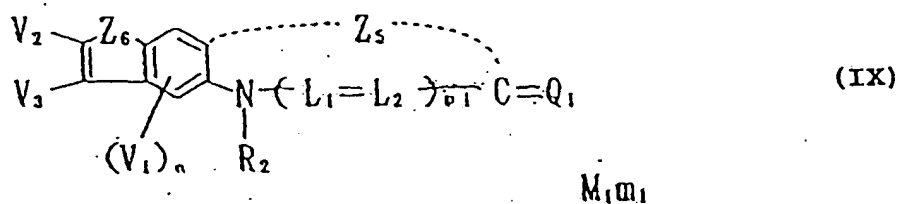
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Claim 2. (currently amended): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the selected atomic group for Z₂ represents ~~is~~ a furan ring, ~~a thiophene ring or a pyrrole ring.~~

Claim 3. (currently amended): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compound represented by formula (III) is represented by formula (VIII) or (IX):



wherein Z₄ represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; Z₃ represents an atomic group necessary to form thiazole, L₁, L₂, p₁, V₁, n, R₂, Q₁, M₁, and m₁ each has the same meaning as described in formula (III); and V₂ and V₃ each represents a substituent, ~~or~~ and V₂ and V₃ ~~may~~ form a condensed ring containing V₂ and V₃;



wherein Z₆ represents N-R₃; Z₅ represents an atomic group necessary to form thiazole; R₃ represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; L₁, L₂, p₁, V₁, n, R₂, Q₁, M₁, and m₁ each has the

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same meaning as described in formula (III); and V_2 and V_3 each has the same meaning as described in formula (VIII).

Claim 4. (original): The compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein R_2 represents an alkyl group having an aryl group as a substituent or an aryl group.

Claim 5. (original): The compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least one substituent represented by V_1 is a group having at least one dissociable group which has a dissociable proton and has a negative charge at proton dissociation or which forms a salt with a counter cation in the form of an anion.

Claim 6. (currently amended): The compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least one substituent represented by V_2 or V_3 in formula (VIII) ~~or formula (IX)~~ is a group having at least one dissociable group which has a dissociable proton and has a negative charge at proton dissociation or which forms a salt with a counter cation in the form of an anion.

Claim 7. (original): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R_2 represents an alkyl group having an aryl group as a substituent or an aryl group.

Claim 8. (original): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one substituent represented by V_1 is a group having at least one dissociable group which has a dissociable proton and has a negative charge at proton dissociation or which forms a salt with a counter cation in the form of an anion.